

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system to provide at least one telephone feature to a telephone of a user, the computer system receiving instructions regarding said at least one telephone feature via a network from a graphical user interface operating on a computer of the user.

2. A computer system as in claim 1, the computer system comprising:
an application server to interact with the telephone of the user and to provide said at least one telephone feature for the telephone; and

a network server layer to interact with the application server, to interact via the network with the computer of the user, and to provide via the network the graphical user interface to the computer, the graphical user interface to operate said at least one telephone feature for the telephone of the user via the network, the network server layer, and the application server.

3. A computer system as in claim 2, wherein the network server layer prompts the computer to request from the network server layer an update of a call state of the telephone.

4. A computer system as in claim 2, wherein the network server layer provides to the graphical user interface an update of a call state of the telephone.

5. A computer system as in claim 2, wherein the network server layer updates the graphical user interface on the computer to represent an idle call state when no calls are present on the telephone and a non-idle state when at least one call is present on the telephone.

6. A computer system as in claim 2, wherein the network server layer updates the graphical user interface on the computer for a call on the telephone transitioning from one state to another state.

7. A computer system as in claim 2, wherein the network server layer provides to the graphical user interface an update of accessibility to said at least one telephone feature.

8. A computer system as in claim 2, wherein the network server layer interacts via the network with the computer using a client push protocol, and the network server layer interacts with the application server using a call client protocol.

9. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the network comprises a bi-directional layer to communicate between the computer system and the computer and a uni-directional layer to communicate from the computer system to the computer.

10. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the computer system communicates with the computer via the network using two transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP) sockets.

11. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the network server layer synchronizes a call state of the telephone of the user with a representation of the call state for the graphical user interface.

12. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one telephone feature comprises a multiple-line telephone feature.

13. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one telephone feature comprises at least one of: a dial number feature; a transfer feature; an answer/talk feature; a hold feature; a release feature; and a conferencing feature.

14. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface operates in conjunction with a network browser of the computer.

15. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface comprises an area to display updateable configurable information relevant to the user.

16. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface comprises a web portal.

17. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface comprises an area to display a message from a personalized information provider.

18. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface comprises a first icon to access a network site of an organization and a second icon to dial a telephone number of the organization using at least one of the telephone features.

19. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the telephone of the user is unknown to the computer system prior to the computer receiving the graphical user interface from the computer system.

20. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the telephone of the user is a mobile telephone.

21. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the telephone of the user is a public pay telephone.

22. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the telephone of the user is a direct dial-in telephone.

23. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the telephone of the user is a single-line telephone.

24. A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the computer system further provides at least one telephone feature to another telephone of the user, the computer system further receiving instructions regarding said at least one telephone feature for said another telephone via the network from the computer of the user.

25. A computer system as in claim 24, wherein the computer system receives instructions from the graphical user interface regarding said telephone and said another telephone.

26. A computer system as in claim 24, wherein the instructions received from the graphical user interface correspond to said telephone, and wherein the computer system receives additional instructions regarding said at least one telephone feature via the network from another graphical user interface operating on the computer of the user, said additional instructions corresponding to said another telephone.

27. A method comprising the steps of:
providing a graphical user interface via a network to a computer of a user;
controlling a telephone of the user according to input received from the graphical user interface on the computer of the user; and
updating the graphical user interface on the computer of the user via the network.

28. The method as in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a call information regarding the telephone;
sending a refresh request to the graphical user interface to request an update on a state of the telephone; and
receiving an update request from the graphical user interface for the update on the state of the telephone.

29. A method as in claim 28, wherein the call information pertains to one of an incoming call for the telephone and an outgoing call for the telephone.

30. A method as in claim 27, further comprising the step of synchronizing a call state of the telephone of the user with a representation of the call state for the graphical user interface.

31. A computer system for performing the method as in claim 27.

32. A computer-readable medium comprising software for performing the method as in claim 27.

33. A system comprising:

means for providing a graphical user interface via a network to a computer of a user;

means for controlling a telephone of the user according to input received from the graphical user interface on the computer of the user; and

means for updating the graphical user interface on the computer of the user via the network.

34. A system as in claim 33, further comprising:

means for receiving a call information regarding the telephone;

means for sending a refresh request to the graphical user interface to request an update on a state of the telephone; and

means for receiving an update request from the graphical user interface for the update on the state of the telephone.

35. A system as in claim 34, wherein the call information pertains to one of an incoming call for the telephone and an outgoing call for the telephone.

36. A system as in claim 33, further comprising means for synchronizing a call state of the telephone of the user with a representation of the call state for the graphical user interface.

37. A system as in claim 33, further comprising means for synchronizing a call state of the telephone of the user with a representation of the call state for the graphical user interface.